

~~Top Secret~~

POLAND

The failure of the Warsaw Court to register the new union Solidarity and the timing of statements by Polish officials to Western ambassadors in Warsaw warning against outside interference seem intended to impress Warsaw Pact foreign ministers currently meeting in the Polish capital that the regime is taking an aggressive stance on the union issue. [redacted]

The foreign ministers will be discussing primarily strategy and tactics on foreign policy issues, but the subject of internal Polish developments will certainly be on their minds. Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko probably will meet with party leader Kania--the first public meeting of the new party First Secretary with a senior Soviet official. [redacted]

Solidarity leader Walesa toured southern Poland this weekend in an effort to demonstrate to the regime that his personal popularity is not confined to the Baltic coast region. Walesa, who reportedly drew large crowds, on Saturday told a mass rally that there will not be a general strike today. He has hinted that he might not call for one over the next several weeks. Walesa said that Solidarity will begin to function as an independent union today by holding elections for officers. [redacted]

Over the past week various Solidarity leaders have sent conflicting signals about the possibility of a strike. While some of this may reflect tactical maneuvering, it probably also reflects differences of opinion within the union leadership. For the moment, Walesa's apparently more moderate policy has carried the day. In the past, however, Walesa has been overruled by the union leadership. Solidarity will discuss tactics today at its regular weekly meeting. [redacted]

A communique from the 176th Conference of Bishops expressed support for the registration of the unions but added that after this has taken place the workers must fulfill their obligations in all sectors of work.

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It concluded by saying that Poland needs internal social calm on the basis of the agreements signed at the end of August. Cardinal Wyszynski also appears to have given his full personal support to the new unions.

Romanian Reaction

In a speech Thursday to the party Central Committee, President Ceausescu reaffirmed Romania's intention to stay out of Poland's internal affairs. Ceausescu criticized the Polish party for its failure to take a firm stance against "antisocialist elements and forces" but voiced confidence that Poland would solve its own problems. Ceausescu's policy of nonintervention is consistent with Romania's position as the sole Warsaw Pact member that did not participate in the 1968 invasion of Czechoslovakia. He also indirectly warned the Romanian populace that emulation of Polish demands would not be tolerated by the regime in Bucharest.

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